A/CONF.189/12 (Part III)

Report of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance

Durban, 31 August - 8 September 2001

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ANNEX I

LIST OF DOCUMENTS ISSUED FOR THE WORLD CONFERENCE AGAINST RACISM, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, XENOPHOBIA AND RELATED INTOLERANCE

Symbol	Agenda item	Title
A/CONF.189/1	7	Provisional agenda
A/CONF.189/1/Rev.1	7	Agenda of the World Conference
A/CONF.189/1/Add.1	7	Annotations to the provisional agenda
A/CONF.189/2	8	Provisional rules of procedure
A/CONF.189/3	8	Draft provisional programme of work
A/CONF.189/4	9	Draft declaration
A/CONF.189/5 and Corr.1	9	Draft programme of action
A/CONF.189/6	8	Proposed organization of the list of speakers for the general debate in the plenary of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance
A/CONF.189/8	8	List of non-governmental organizations accredited during the preparatory process of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance
A/CONF.189/9	9	Contribution by Mr. Miloon Kothari, Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of an adequate standard of living
A/CONF.189/10	9	Note by the secretariat on contributions by non-governmental organizations
A/CONF.189/10/Add.1	9	Contribution submitted by Fraternité Notre Dame
A/CONF.189/10/Add.2	9	Contribution submitted by Bahai International Community

Symbol	Agenda item	Title
A/CONF.189/10/Add.3	9	Contribution submitted by the Indian Movement "Tupaj Amaru"
A/CONF.189/10/Add.4	9	Contribution submitted by Human Rights Watch
A/CONF.189/10/Add.5	9	Contribution submitted by Brahma Kumaris, World Spiritual University
A/CONF.189/10/Add.6	9	Contribution submitted by European Women's Lobby
A/CONF.189/10/Add.7	9	Contribution submitted by Oromia Support Group
A/CONF.189/10/Add.8	9	Contribution submitted by the Netherlands Centre for Indigenous Peoples
A/CONF.189/10/Add.9	9	Contribution submitted by Zentrum fur Turkeistudien (Turkiye Arastirmalar Merkezi)
A/CONF.189/11		Report of the Credentials Committee
A/CONF.189/L.1 and Add.1-3		Draft report of the World Conference
A/CONF.189/L.2 and Add.1	10	Report of the Main Committee on the draft declaration
A/CONF.189/L.3 and Add.1-3	10	Report of the Main Committee on the draft programme of action
A/CONF.189/INF.1		List of participants
A/CONF.189/ Misc.1		Contribution by national institutions

ANNEX II

OPENING STATEMENTS

Statement by Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations

Yesterday South Africa lost a leader and our brother Thabo a father. May I ask you now to stand and observe a moment of silence.

Every one of us must feel the symbolism of this moment - the conjunction of theme, of time and of place.

For decades the name of this country was synonymous with racism in its vilest form. But today, Mr. President, you and your fellow citizens have transformed its meaning - from a by-word for injustice and oppression, into a beacon of enlightenment and hope, not only for a troubled continent, but for the entire world.

Where else, my friends, could we hold this Conference? Who could teach us how to overcome racism, discrimination and intolerance, if not the people of this country? We salute you. We salute your leadership, Mr. President. We salute the heroic movement that you represent.

We salute Madiba, whose absence today we all regret, but whose presence, in a more profound sense, we all feel.

We salute the memory of all who struggled for justice and freedom in this country - from Mohandas Gandhi to Oliver Tambo; from Steve Biko to Ruth First - and, of course, Govan Mbeke, for whom we are all in mourning today.

And we also recognize the courage of F.W. de Klerk, who faced up to the inevitable and persuaded his own people to accept it.

But indeed, my friends, we are here to learn, not to celebrate. We are here to share experiences, perspectives and assessments - of how far we have come, and how much further we must go, if racism is to be defeated.

One thing we can celebrate is the fact that racism is now universally condemned. Few people in the world today openly deny that human beings are born with equal rights.

But far too many people are still victimized because they belong to a particular group - whether national, ethnic, religious, defined by gender or by descent.

Often this discrimination veils itself behind spurious pretexts. People are denied jobs ostensibly because they lack educational qualifications; or they are refused housing because there is a high crime rate in their community.

Yet these very facts, even when true, are often the result of discrimination. Injustice traps people in poverty, poverty becomes the pretext for injustice - and so new wrongs are piled on the old.

In many places people are maltreated and denied protection on the grounds that they are not citizens but unwanted immigrants. Yet often they have come to a new country to do work that is badly needed, or are present not by choice but as refugees from persecution in their own country. Such people have a special need for protection and are entitled to it.

In other cases indigenous peoples and national minorities are oppressed because their culture and self-expression are seen as threats to national unity - and when they protest, this is taken as proof of their guilt.

In extreme cases - which alas are all too common - people belonging to such groups are forced from their homes, or even massacred, because it is claimed that their very presence threatens another people's security.

Sometimes these problems are in part the legacy of terrible wrongs in the past - such as the exploitation and extermination of indigenous peoples by colonial Powers, or the treatment of millions of human beings as mere merchandise, to be transported and disposed of by other human beings for commercial gain.

The further those events recede into the past, the harder it becomes to trace lines of accountability. Yet the effects remain. The pain and anger are still felt. The dead, through their descendants, cry out for justice.

Tracing a connection with past crimes may not always be the most constructive way to redress present inequalities, in material terms. But man does not live by bread alone. The sense of continuity with the past is an integral part of each man's or each woman's identity.

Some historical wrongs are traceable to individuals who are still alive, or corporations that are still in business. They must expect to be held to account. The society they have wronged may forgive them, as part of the process of reconciliation, but they cannot demand forgiveness, as of right.

Far more difficult are the cases where individual profit and loss have been obscured by a myriad of other, more recent transactions - yet there is still continuity between the societies and States of today and those that committed the original crimes.

Each of us has an obligation to consider where he or she belongs in this complex historical chain. It is always easier to think of the wrongs one's own society has suffered. It is less comfortable to think in what ways our own good fortune might relate to the sufferings of others, in the past or present. But if we are sincere in our desire to overcome the conflicts of the past, all of us should make that mental effort.

A special responsibility falls on political leaders, who have accepted the task of representing a whole society. They are accountable to their fellow citizens, but also - in a sense -

accountable for them, and for the actions of their predecessors. We have seen, in recent decades, some striking examples of national leaders assuming this responsibility, acknowledging past wrongs and asking pardon from - or offering an apology to - the victims and their heirs.

Such gestures cannot right the wrongs of the past. They can sometimes help to free the present - and the future - from the shackles of the past.

But in any case, Mr. President, past wrongs must not distract us from present evils. Our aim must be to banish from this new century the hatred and prejudice that have disfigured previous centuries.

The struggle to do that is at the very heart of our work at the United Nations. This year especially, at such events as the Conference on the Least Developed Countries, the special session on HIV/AIDS, or next month's special session on Children, we have often found racism and discrimination among the biggest obstacles to overcome.

And in our peacekeeping and peace-building work, we often find ourselves wrestling - again and again - with the effects of xenophobia and intolerance.

Only if we tackle these evils at source can we hope to prevent conflicts before they break out. And that means taking firm action to root them out in every society - for, alas, no society is immune.

Last year, the leaders of our Member States resolved, in their Millennium Declaration, "to take measures to ensure respect for and protection of the human rights of migrants, migrant workers and their families, to eliminate the increasing acts of racism and xenophobia in many societies, and to promote greater harmony and tolerance in all societies".

With those words, Mr. President, they gave this Conference its true agenda. We must not leave this city without agreeing on practical measures which all States should take to fulfil that pledge. It must be reflected in our budgets and development plans, in our laws and institutions - and, above all, in our school curricula.

Let us remember that no one is born a racist. Children learn racism as they grow up, from the society around them - and too often the stereotypes are reinforced, deliberately or inadvertently, by the mass media. We must not sacrifice freedom of the press, but we must actively refute pseudo-scientific arguments and oppose negative images with positive ones - teaching our children and our fellow citizens not to fear diversity, but to cherish it.

This Conference has been exceptionally difficult to prepare, because the issues are not ones where consensus is easily found.

Yes, we can all agree to condemn racism. But that very fact makes the accusation of racism, against any particular individual or group, particularly hurtful. It is hurtful to one's pride, because few of us see ourselves as racists. And it arouses fear, because once a group is accused of racism it becomes a potential target for retaliation, perhaps for persecution in its turn.

Nowhere is that truer today than in the Middle East. The Jewish people have been victims of anti-Semitism in many parts of the world and in Europe they were the target of the Holocaust - the ultimate abomination. This fact must never be forgotten or diminished. It is understandable, therefore, that many Jews deeply resent any accusation of racism directed against the State of Israel - and all the more so when it coincides with indiscriminate and totally unacceptable attacks on innocent civilians.

Yet we cannot expect Palestinians to accept this as a reason why the wrongs done to them - displacement, occupation, blockade and now extrajudicial killings - should be ignored, whatever label one uses to describe them.

But, my friends, mutual accusations are not the purpose of this Conference. Our main objective must be to improve the lot of the victims.

Let us admit that all countries have issues of racism and discrimination to address. Rather than pick on any one country or region, let us aim to leave here with a commitment from every country to draw up and implement its own national plan to combat racism, in accordance with general principles that we will have agreed.

For weeks and months our representatives have laboured to reach agreement on those principles. And they have made great progress. Large parts of the Declaration and Programme of Action have been agreed, including texts on such difficult issues as indigenous peoples, migrants, refugees and "people of African descent".

Friends, this Conference is a test of our international community - of its will to unite on a topic of central importance in people's lives. Let us not fail this test. The build-up to this Conference has prompted an extraordinary mobilization of civil society in many different countries. It has raised expectations which we must not disappoint.

If we leave here without agreement we shall give comfort to the worst elements in every society. But if, after all the difficulties, we can leave with a call to action supported by all, we shall send a signal of hope to brave people struggling against racism all over the world.

Let us rise above our disagreements. The wrangling has gone on for too long. Let us echo the slogan that resounded throughout this country during the elections of 1994, at the end of the long struggle against apartheid: SEKUNJALO. The time has come.

Statement by H.E. Mr. Thabo Mbeki, President of the Republic of South Africa

On behalf of the people of South Africa and our Government, I am privileged to join in welcoming you all to South Africa and to this historic World Conference that has the potential and a responsibility to convey a message of hope to billions of people across the globe.

We have gathered as we have, because we are united in our resolve to ensure that every human being leads a life of dignity. We meet here because we are determined to ensure that nobody anywhere should be subjected to the insult and offence of being despised by another or others because of his or her race, colour, nationality or origin.

Together we are committed to the realization of the objective that every human being should enjoy human rights as equals with other human beings, with every right and possibility to determine both their future and the destiny of their countries.

This surely means that nobody should be denied their statehood on any basis whatsoever, or turned into permanent refugees with neither the right nor the possibility to build a national home they can truly call home.

I am certain we are determined to speak with one voice to assert that no culture, language or tradition of any people is inferior, deserving of being despised, mocked and destroyed. By this means we want to make the point firmly that all peoples and all nations are mutually and each equally entitled to their identity and their national pride.

We have gathered in Durban because we have understood that poverty is not a natural human condition. Accordingly, it constitutes a direct attack on the human dignity of all those condemned to deprivation and are therefore forced to beg, to steal, to prostitute themselves because they are poor or those who resort to substance abuse to take away the pain of hunger and despair.

Understanding all this, we are meeting here because we have said to ourselves that, since poverty is not an act of nature but the product of human society, we must as this human society, together fight and vanquish poverty and underdevelopment.

We have come together, in what some believe is a new age of reason, because we know that the knowledge and the means exist in human society today in fact to overcome this poverty and underdevelopment.

The question that remains to be answered is what is to be done to deploy these powerful intellectual and material resources so that poverty everywhere becomes a thing of the past.

It became necessary that we convene in Durban because, together, we recognized the fact that there are many in our common world who suffer indignity and humiliation because they are not white.

Their cultures and traditions are despised as savage and primitive and their identities denied. They are not white and are deeply immersed in poverty. Of them it is said that they are human but black, whereas others are described as human and white.

To those who have to bear the pain of this real world, it seems the blues singers were right when they decried the world in which it was said - if you're white you're alright; if you're brown, stick around; if you're black, oh brother! get back, get back, get back!

I speak in these terms, which some may think are too harsh and stark, because I come from a people that have known the bitter experience of slavery, colonialism and racism.

These are a people who know what it means to be the victim of rabid racism and racial discrimination. Among us are the women who suffered most because they had to carry the additional burden of gender oppression and discrimination.

Because of that experience, against whose results we continue to struggle to this day, as we will do for a considerable time to come, we also know what can be achieved when the peoples of the world unite to say no longer will they allow that another human being will suffer at the hands of another because of their race, colour, nationality and origin.

In welcoming you to South Africa, we welcome you as fellow combatants who joined us in struggle to defeat and suppress the apartheid crime against humanity.

Accordingly, I am privileged to have the opportunity as you, who represent the nations of the world, meet in this country, which not so long ago was the fountainhead of racism, once more to convey to you the immense gratitude of the millions of our people that you did not stand aside when that crime against humanity was being committed.

These masses are convinced that when you waged that protracted struggle, you did so because you were opposed to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance everywhere.

They welcomed the fact that you decided to convene this World Conference here in the belief that you did so because you have confidence that we too remain an active part of the world movement determined to fight on until racism ceases to define anybody's place in society and the world.

They were happy that you would come, because this would give us an opportunity to reaffirm in front of you all that to us slavery, colonialism and racism are fundamentally repugnant.

It would give us the possibility to pledge to the peoples of the world that we will not betray the friendship and solidarity which drove you to act against apartheid and will therefore join with you in the difficult struggle to eradicate the legacy of slavery, colonialism and racism.

Those in our common universe who are defined by the blues singers as brown and black expect much of this important World Conference. They believe that something will come out of here that will signify a united and sustained global drive within their countries and throughout the world to help rid them of the suffering they bear because they are brown and black.

They entertain this hope because their suffering is real and immense. And yet they can also see that there are others who are as human as they, who lead decent lives and are certain of even better lives in future, whatever other problems they experience.

Gripped by poverty, fearful of the future because they know that tomorrow will be worse than today, forced to behave towards others as though some are inferior and others superior,

simply to get something to eat, many take to their feet to flee from their lands of despair, at all costs trying to reach other countries they believe have the possibility to introduce them to a life of hope.

Our common humanity dictates that as we rose against apartheid racism, so must we combine to defeat the consequences of slavery, colonialism and racism which, to this day, continue to define the lives of billions of people who are brown and black as lives of hopelessness.

Nobody ever chose to be a slave, to be colonized, to be racially oppressed. The impulses of the time caused these crimes to be committed by human beings against others.

Surely, the impulse of our own time says to all of us that we must do everything we can to free those who to this day suffer from racism, xenophobia and related intolerance because their forebears were enslaved, colonized and racially oppressed.

It surely must be that this World Conference will say that, in all countries, both of the North and the South, the brown and black ghettos of poverty, despair and human degradation must no longer exist.

This World Conference will have to indicate what is to be done practically so that this call results in a changed and changing world in which all human beings actually enjoy the inalienable right to human dignity.

An important part of our legitimacy as Governments derives from our commitment to serve the people. Our own experience tells us that these people whom we serve always feel pain when another, who might be a citizen of other lands, feels pain.

To these masses, human solidarity is not a foreign concept. To them, this World Conference must convey the message that the peoples of the world are inspired by a new internationalism that says that we are determined to unite in action to repair the gross human damage that was caused in the past.

It must inspire them with the knowledge that as Governments, as non-governmental organizations, as countries and as peoples, we are ready now to dedicate our minds, our skills and our resources to the creation of a new world free of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

It must convey a message of hope to the peoples of the world that, together, we are resolved to work hard for peace everywhere in our universe, so that the doors open everywhere for the fullest and all-round development of all human beings in conditions of freedom, safety and security.

The Middle East cries out for a just, stable and permanent peace that is long overdue. The people of Palestine, like those of Israel and everywhere else in the world, are also entitled to pursue their fullest and all-round development in conditions of freedom, safety and security.

Our own continent of Africa also deserves peace like any other, to rescue the peoples from death and destruction and to open the doors for us, too, to develop in conditions of freedom, safety and security.

Thus will the conditions be created for us as Africans to take to the long road towards the eradication of the legacy, which is our daily companion, of slavery, colonialism and racism.

Only recently we bade farewell to a century that has visited terrible suffering on millions of people. It inflicted a terrible Holocaust on the Jewish people. It imposed a frightful genocide on the people of Rwanda. It produced criminal regimes of people demented by adherence to anti-human ideologies of racial superiority.

And yet this same century gave us a global compact in the form of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It gave humanity as a whole the possibility to accumulate the knowledge and the means to realize the noble vision contained in that document.

We have gathered in Durban to make the commitment that this we will do and, together, to decide what steps we will take to ensure what has to be done is done.

Once more, I welcome you to this country which you helped to liberate from apartheid racism and hope that the celebration of that victory will give this World Conference the inspiration to produce the results that will define the twenty-first century as the century that restored to all their human dignity.

Statement by H. E. Ms. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Africa and President of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance

In accepting the Presidency of this Conference, it is appropriate to pay a special tribute to the gallant fighter against racism and son of Africa, Govan Mbeki, who sadly passed away on the eve of this Conference.

Inspired by the collective efforts of humanity, slavery, the slave trade, colonialism and apartheid have all ceased to be. They have all been defeated, because humanity could not countenance oppression of one by another, because humanity has dared to affirm an injunction that we are all born equal with inherent rights and dignity. These noble words are enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and serve as a guiding light and offer hope for all humanity.

Representing African women, I know the pain of slavery, and colonialism, whose legacy is staring me in the face every day. My continent bears the scars of conflicts, abject poverty, racism, marginalization, social exclusion, underdevelopment, economic disparities, humiliation and indignity; all have their roots in the practices of these abominable systems.

We can take pride in the role of this region in the long struggle against racism. It was in this province that Mahatma Ghandi launched his non-violent resistance struggle and later inspired the freedom struggle in India and worldwide. South Africa has a long history of

resistance, symbolized by the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to Chief Albert Lutuli, who was the first African leader to receive it and came from this region. Despite the triumph against racism, all countries of the world continue to battle against the contemporary forms of racism. It is my hope that at the end of this Conference, we will learn from and share with the international community on the ways and means of dealing with racism.

Our Conference must issue a clarion call to the rest of the world to end the unspeakable evils of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. Concomitantly with this call, we must launch a sustained programme of action capable of being implemented by every country at every level.

In recognizing the work that has been produced thus far, I wish to thank all Member States for their contributions in their respective regions. This was followed by intensive preparatory meetings held in Geneva. Indeed, at times it seemed gloomy and hopeless, but we persevered and recorded substantial progress. We must build on that, aware of the sensitivity and pain involved in confronting these issues. It is my hope that we shall together respond to this challenge before us. We must succeed, we cannot afford anything less than success. At the end of this century we must look back at this Conference as the beginning of an offensive against racism.

The Youth Summit and the Non-Governmental Organization Forum have also discussed these issues and challenged the Conference to bequeath them a non-racial, non-sexist, tolerant and peaceful world. We dare not fail them. This will be a fitting tribute to all those who over generations have sacrificed their lives in the battle against racism.

It will be remiss of me to conclude without acknowledging the dexterous work of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and her secretariat. She and her team have performed brilliantly under trying conditions.

I, therefore, accept with humility, the task assigned to me as President of this Conference by this distinguished assembly. My success is dependent on the cooperation of all of you. I know, without doubt, that all of you will contribute in any way you can to make this Conference a success. It will be through our perseverance and cooperation in the spirit of brotherhood and sisterhood that we will all succeed.

In his book, Long Walk to Freedom, the icon of our struggle, Nelson Mandela, made this seminal comment: "I have taken a moment here to rest, to steal a view of the glorious vistas that surround me, to look back on the distance I have come. But I can rest only for a moment, for with freedom comes responsibilities and I dare not linger for my long walk is not yet ended."

It is my fervent hope that at the end of this Conference we will look back proudly at the road traversed thus far and go on to give concrete expression to the Programme of Action and the Declaration that we would adopt with consensus.

Statement by Mr. Harri Holkeri, President of the United Nations General Assembly

I should like to congratulate you on your election as the President of the Conference. I am confident that with your experience and wisdom, you will be able to guide this important Conference to a successful outcome.

I am honoured to address the opening meeting of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in my capacity as President of the General Assembly. This Conference is one of the five United Nations conferences and special sessions convened since last September's Millennium Summit. As President, I have been mandated to follow up the implementation of the Millennium Declaration adopted by the heads of State and Government. This Conference should rise to the challenge and prove that Member States are truly committed to the implementation of the Declaration.

The Millennium Declaration brought together the global development agendas of the 1990s, but it also reflected a unique consensus on the values and principles of the international community. Many of the goals and principles of the Declaration are closely linked to the outcome of this Conference.

In the Millennium Declaration, Governments committed themselves not only to respect human rights in general but explicitly to respect equal rights, without distinction. The Declaration reaffirmed respect for each other in all our diversity and our determination to eliminate acts of racism and xenophobia. It also obliged us to protect those who can find themselves in situations of vulnerability.

Racism and racial discrimination are among the most powerful assaults on human dignity and freedom. No society can tolerate racism without undermining peace and justice. The fight against racism and racial discrimination has been at the forefront of the United Nations since its creation. The inclusion in the Charter of the United Nations of the promotion and protection of human rights for all, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion, was based largely on the world's experiences before and during the Second World War.

The General Assembly has throughout the years played a significant role in addressing racism and racial discrimination, not only as a political forum for debate but also as a policy-making instrument for the creation of programmes to tackle these evils.

The three Decades to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, the two previous world conferences against racism and racial discrimination, and the current Year of Mobilization against Racism and Racial Discrimination have all served as tools to achieve results in the fight against racism.

The United Nations played a key role in ending apartheid. It was a major achievement of the international community as a whole and marked the extinction of institutionalized forms of racial discrimination. And yet, while the mass media, international travel and technological progress bring people closer and closer, we are witnessing a resurgence of intolerance, manifestations of xenophobia, racism, racial discrimination and ethnic conflicts across the world. The fundamental rights of migrants, refugees, ethnic, national and religious minorities and

indigenous peoples are being denied. The resurgence of ethnic conflict in many parts of the world is a source of concern. New theories of racial and ethnic purification have emerged. Inequality has become the pressing challenge of our time.

It was against this background that, in December 1997, the General Assembly decided that it was time for the international community to confront the rising tide of racism and racial discrimination. It decided to convene this World Conference to formulate concrete recommendations to further action-oriented national, regional and international measures to combat all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

We have gathered here to take a big step forward in the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. I have followed the preparatory process of this Conference with great interest. Substantial progress has been made in shaping the final document. Now, I encourage you all to work hard to make the outcome a landmark for further action by Member States and the United Nations. A great deal of political will and leadership is still required to reach an agreement on the remaining outstanding issues.

Durban - a truly symbolic forum for this Conference, and a reminder for us all that when there is political will and determination, changes can be made - offers a unique opportunity to make our century a century of understanding among people, a century of acceptance of diversity and a century of respect for differences. We have reached a critical moment where each individual should be an equal member of the human family.

We have a great responsibility and I remain confident that we have the potential to shape attitudes and resolve the basic question of human relationships - how people should relate to each other - with respect and tolerance.

Statement by Mrs. Mary Robinson, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and Secretary-General of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance

Today marks the start of an event which many people have worked long and hard for over many months. To all who contributed and especially to the people of Durban and South Africa I say a warm "thank you".

We have come a long way to Durban. Indeed, it has been a bumpy road. I recall the first formal event of the Conference 18 months ago - an expert seminar in Geneva on "remedies available to the victims of acts of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and good national practices in the field". We have come a long way since then in building up our understanding of racism in the modern world. There have been four regional conferences, five expert seminars and three sessions of the Preparatory Committee. There have been lengthy drafting sessions, and events of every description have taken place in every part of the world with the focus on the themes of Durban.

We have come a long way psychologically and substantively too. Our journey to Durban has helped to shape thinking about who the victims of racism and discrimination are, what sort of

remedies can be made available and the best kinds of preventive measures. When the balance sheet is drawn up for the Conference, the greater understanding which has been achieved of the sources, causes of and remedies for racism must weigh heavily in its favour.

At the same time, this was never going to be an easy Conference. Asking people to face up to the problems of racism in their midst is not always welcome. There is a tendency to say "We don't have those problems in our country". It is always easier to point the finger of blame than to look hard at our own prejudices and biases.

And we should not be surprised that the negotiations have been difficult. The issues we are addressing here confront us at so many levels, nationally, regionally, locally. They are among the most sensitive the United Nations and the international community have to deal with. It is worth remembering this over the coming week.

We should remember, too, that we cannot solve all of the world's problems at Durban.

A theme I have been stressing is that we all belong to one human family. Families don't agree on everything. But they agree on certain fundamentals, and that is what makes families strong. What I am asking all of you is that we agree on the fundamental aims of this Conference, not that we try to sort out all the problems on the international agenda.

One thing that is clearer to me after the preparations of the past 18 months is how badly we need new strategies to fight racism and intolerance in the modern world. To those who say we do not need a world conference on this subject I say "Look around you". How much misery, inequality, conflict is caused by racism and discrimination? From a human rights point of view, this Conference is crucially important. Equality and non-discrimination are central to the pursuit of human rights.

Success at Durban should be measured by whether or not the outcome brings effective remedies and relief to the victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

I have also learned how closely contemporary forms of racism are bound up with the past. I believe this Conference could mark a historic breakthrough in the struggle against racism if agreement could be reached on language that recognizes historic injustices and expresses deep remorse for the crimes of the past. If we can do that, it will connect with millions of people worldwide and affirm their human dignity. It will connect in the way that poetry connects and will be heard by that inner ear.

We must focus attention on outcomes and forward strategies. In some respects the journey proper will only begin after we leave Durban. That is when the real test will come of what we have achieved over these months of preparation and at the Conference itself.

Durban will only be a landmark if there is substantial text adopted here and meaningful follow-up. The task which we must achieve before we leave is to have a clear understanding about the follow-up which must be accomplished, about who is responsible for the necessary actions and how we can measure progress.

I call on every government representative to ensure that the responsibilities of States in the fight against racism and discrimination are fully understood and acted on as the Secretary-General has urged, through national programmes or plans of action.

I call on intergovernmental organizations to play their part to ensure that the aims of this Conference are reflected in their own activities and that they vigorously monitor the commitments that will be made here.

As far as the United Nations role is concerned, the participatory process has made it clear that the United Nations must not only continue its historic fight against discrimination, but must intensify that struggle. We have heard at length from those who are hurting, from those who are the victims of injustice and from those in quest of dignity and equality. I have already drawn firm conclusions from this and I shall establish an anti-discrimination unit reporting directly to me to take follow-up action on the insights we have already gained, on the implementation of your recommendations and to maintain common cause and mobilization with civil society. I shall be consulting with Member States at the forthcoming General Assembly on how we can take forward processes to follow up on the practical proposals that have come out of the various regional conferences and expert meetings.

I cannot overstate the role of civil society in the follow-up process. I look particularly to non-governmental organizations, the international youth forum formed here in Durban and civil society generally to take up the challenge of Durban and form a global alliance with Governments to carry the struggle forward. The impression I have is that non-governmental organizations are, indeed, rising to the challenge and are aware of how vital is the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

Three things I would ask for in the week ahead from all parties and especially from delegates. The first is generosity of spirit. It is no small issue we are dealing with in Durban; it is no time to be small-minded. Secondly, I call for flexibility and a willingness to meet the views of others. Progress can only be made on that basis and the urgency of devising new strategies to combat racism and discrimination requires it. Finally, I would appeal for a sense of vision. I remain convinced that this can be a defining moment for the international community, that we have the capacity at the start of this century to work for a better and fairer world.

We can draw inspiration from the African concept of Ubuntu, that ancient term which embraces humaneness, caring, sharing and being in harmony with all of the world. When he came to Geneva last April, Archbishop Desmond Tutu explained how the concept represents the opposite of being selfish and self-centred. Ubuntu empowers everyone to be valued, to reach their full potential while remaining in accord with everything and everyone around them.

This spirit is reflected in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights when it speaks of "the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family". The Universal Declaration proclaims that "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights... and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood". Some of you, like me, would rather call it a spirit of sisterhood. But whether brotherhood or sisterhood, let that spirit inform our discussions over the coming week as we strive for a world where the principles of equality and non-discrimination are honoured, not merely in words, but in fact.

ANNEX III

ROUND TABLE OF HEADS OF STATE AND HEADS OF GOVERNMENT

1. On 31 August 2001, at 3 p.m., the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance held a round table of heads of State and heads of Government, under the chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Thabo Mbeki, President of the Republic of South Africa. A statement was made by President Mbeki.

2. The round table was opened by the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, who made a statement.

3. The following heads of State and heads of Government participated in the round table:

H.E. Ms. Vaira Vike-Freiberga, President of State of the Republic of Latvia;

H.E. Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;

H.E. Mr. Abdoulaye Wade, President of the Republic of Senegal;

H.E. Mr. Pedro Verona Rodrigues Pires, President of the Republic of Cape Verde;

H.E. Mr. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda;

H.E. Mr. Yasser Arafat, President of the Palestinian Authority;

H.E. Mr. Paul Kagame, President of the Rwandese Republic;

H.E. Mr. Fidel Castro, President of the Councils of State and Ministers of Cuba;

H.E. Mr. Didjob Divungui Di-Ndinge, Vice-President of the Gabonese Republic;

H.E. Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, President of the Democratic People's Republic of Algeria;

H.E. Mr. Jozo Krizanovic, Chair of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina;

H.E. Mr. Pascoal Manuel Mocumbi, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mozambique;

H.E. Mr. Denis Sassou Nguesso, President of the Republic of the Congo.

5. Questions were put or comments made to the participants in the round table by the representatives of Canada, Comoros, Cuba, Jamaica, Latvia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mexico, Nepal, the Philippines and Spain.

6. Questions were put or comments made to the participants by representatives of the following non-governmental organizations: Law Society, National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

7. In an interactive dialogue, participants responded to the questions and comments.

8. Concluding remarks were made by President Mbeki and Mrs. Mary Robinson, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

ANNEX IV

CLOSING STATEMENTS

Written statement by H.E. Mr. Thabo Mbeki, President of the Republic of South Africa

We are at the end of an historic World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance.

As we prepare to return to our respective homes, I would like to thank you most sincerely for coming to Durban to participate in the important work that has been done at the governmental and non-governmental meetings that have taken place over the last fortnight.

I would also like to apologize for any inconvenience suffered by any of the delegates, as a result of any failings on our part as South Africans.

As we prepare to return to our respective homes, naturally, we must ask ourselves the question - did we achieve what we came to Durban to achieve?

Long before we concluded our work, the sceptics said the Conference had failed. Some of those who did not come stayed away because they do not care about the pain caused to very many by the social evils we have been discussing.

Clearly, others behaved as they did because they thought there were other matters more important than the effort to unite the peoples of the world to wage a determined struggle against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

Those of us who care deeply about these critically important matters of human rights for all, and human dignity for all, came, stayed and grappled with these issues with the great seriousness they demand.

This we did in the same way that we stayed the whole course of the struggle to defeat the apartheid crime against humanity.

We arrived at the positions we have taken without equivocation. At the same time, we refused to make the statement that is difficult to understand that the human rights of some are superior to the human rights of others.

We resisted the pressure to subscribe to the inhuman proposition that human dignity can be apportioned around the globe in disproportionate shares.

At the end of our stay in Durban, we can say very firmly that what we sought to achieve, we have achieved.

We met here not merely as Governments but as the peoples of the world. As these peoples, we have made a clarion call that has been heard in all corners of the globe.

The call we have made from this World Conference to the peoples of the world is that because racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance continue to blight human society, they must be fought with the greatest determination and perseverance.

Few in the world can say that they have not heard us. Few in our common universe can now say they did not act, simply because they did not know.

Because of the courage that all of us have demonstrated to confront the scourge of racism, it should no longer be that this issue, like the similarly important challenge of sexism, is relegated to the margins of social and public policy.

The clear message from the World Conference against Racism is that the struggle against racism is a struggle for human rights, dignity and the eradication of poverty.

What the global community will also have heard coming out of Durban is that the peoples of the world are indeed united in their resolve to act together against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and not merely to condemn these evils.

From today, they will see that united resolve expressed in the Declaration and the Programme of Action that we have adopted and which we all committed to implement.

The fact that we have adopted a Declaration and a Programme of Action underscores the truth that if we have the political will to succeed, we can find consensus on all issues. It also underlines the fact that international conferences are not platforms dogmatically to impose one's own positions.

They enable us to have frank and open discussions in order to arrive at agreed solutions. We can be proud that we all worked honestly to arrive at a consensus. None of us achieved everything we wanted, but we have started an historical process, which provides us with a solid foundation to continue the struggle to build a better world for all.

We trust that those who walked out prematurely will accept the Programme of Action and join the international crusade against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

We can say without hesitation that yet another achievement of the World Conference is that it has answered that question for all of us about what we should do to combat racism and to move forward towards its eradication everywhere in the world.

Few in our common universe, now and in future, can say they did not act, merely because they did not know what to do.

Since racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance constitute a global challenge to the effort to construct a human world, they demand that those of us who are committed to confront this challenge should combine into a formidable united movement for the dignity of all human beings everywhere.

The holding of the World Conference has given us the possibility to reinforce the process towards the building of this global anti-racist movement by enabling us to sit together to seek a common understanding of the challenge we face and to make a commitment to one another that we will act together.

We must also salute the Secretary-General of the Conference for the important initiative the United Nations took to ensure that Governments, non-governmental organizations and the youth all focus on the struggle against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

As Governments we may disagree with some of the conclusions arrived at by the non-governmental organizations. However, this should not detract from the important reality that these organizations constitute an important component part of the global anti-racist movement of which we have spoken.

It should also not weaken our resolve as Governments to work together with the youth and the non-governmental sector to mount a united and sustained offensive to push back the frontiers of racism.

This must also mean that as Governments we have to hold ourselves accountable to the peoples of the world by ensuring that we report regularly on what we are doing to implement the Programme of Action we have adopted, and by responding to legitimate public criticism if we fail to act.

I trust that all of us will also agree that the commitment we have made to act is also an undertaking that we will act in solidarity with one another across the globe.

We must recall and draw inspiration from the powerful international movement we built together, so that we could act in unity against apartheid racism in South Africa.

Together we must make the statement in action that we represent a new internationalism based on the recognition that an injury to one is an injury to all.

Thus will we give strength and hope to victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance who might be too weak if they act on their own, but strong if we all respond to the purpose of this World Conference of uniting the peoples of the world against racism.

We ourselves who have been privileged to be present at this Conference as delegates cannot say we did not hear the voices of those whose voices are never heard, because they are the forgotten, the marginalized and the despised.

None of us will leave Durban without having learnt something new. None of us can truthfully say that we depart from this city without having been exposed to the suffering of communities to whose plight we had not been sensitized before.

Even if we had achieved nothing else, we would have achieved much simply by enabling those who have never had the possibility to break the barriers of silence in the past, to tell the world their moving stories of oppression and exploitation at the hands of other human beings who do to others what they would not allow to be done to themselves.

It must surely be one of the responsibilities of the United Nations and all of us to ensure that the billions who did not hear the testimonies we heard are given the possibility to acquaint themselves with the gross injustices that still constitute an inherent part of a human society that prides itself on its achievements with regard to such centrally important issues as democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

Madam President,
Distinguished delegates.

Our contemporary world is characterized by at least four distinguishing features.

One of these is the end of the cold war and therefore the assumption by some of a position of exclusive dominance in the global exercise of power.

The second, arising from the first, is the reality of a global political and economic agenda set by this collective dominant power, resulting in the implementation of measures determined by this power as representing the essence of what is good.

The third of these features is the process of globalization, which both informs and is informed by this global agenda, thus giving the agenda the character of a natural process against which there can be no alternative.

The fourth feature of our time that we would like to mention is the further disempowerment of those who are already disempowered, which subjects them to imperatives they cannot influence and over which they have no control.

We met in Durban to discuss what we can do collectively to change the life conditions of those who are affected by racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

Put in other words, we met in Durban to agree, to the extent that we could, about what we should do to change the life conditions of those who are, today, the most disempowered and the worst victims of the process of further disempowerment.

More than anybody else, these masses cry out for democracy and therefore for their voice to be heard, listened to seriously and responded to.

They are unwavering militants of the struggle for human rights and the rule of law and therefore the right to lead humane lives, as equals with other human beings.

They entertain great hopes about the future because they have taken at their word those who foretell that the process of globalization will bring prosperity for all.

They are pleased that they have the possibility to be treated as human beings and not mere changeable and disposable ciphers in a gigantic ideological game played by those who exercise power so that they can hold on to power and maintain a particular balance of power.

But they also know from their daily experience that the future they have been promised has yet to be. They know that they remain, still, unequal to others.

The lives they lead and their alienation from institutions of power compel some to doubt the efficacy of democratic means to improve their lives.

They are aware that they have no access to the world to which they are told they should belong as their human right.

They know that as much as hunger and misery was their lot yesterday and today, so will they be their bedfellows tomorrow.

Because they know all these things, these masses sent their representatives to Durban so that their concerns and their aspirations should become part of the global agenda that will determine what our common world will look like in the twenty-first century.

The decisions we have taken constitute what should be on that agenda. Their importance dictates that we take seriously the task of translating them into reality.

It demands that we overcome the opposition of those who benefit from the silence and invisibility of those who suffer from racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

These will continue to argue that those who suffer from racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance are wrong to represent their cause, that they are mistaken to broadcast the pain they feel.

As they attempted to do here in Durban, they will ask us to talk about things other than what we want to talk about. Because they see us as the denizens of the periphery of human society, they will work to decide for us what our agenda should be.

In Durban, we said no to all that.

As we did what we had to do at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance we chose to listen to the voice of the outstanding Chilean poet, Pablo Neruda, when he said:

> "You are going to ask: and where are the lilacs?
> And the poppy-petalled metaphysics?
> And the rain repeatedly spattering in words and drilling them full
> of apertures and birds? ...

"And you will ask: why doesn't his poetry
speak of dreams and leaves
and the great volcanoes of his native land?

"Come and see the blood in the streets.
Come and see
the blood in the streets.
Come and see the blood
In the streets!"

It should not be that those who heard a message of hope emanate from Durban should, one day, have occasion to repeat after Pablo Neruda:

"and from every dead child a rifle with eyes,
and from every crime bullets are born
which will one day find
the bull's eyes of your hearts."

I wish you each a safe journey home and success in the common struggle to rid the world of the demon of racism.

Statement by H.E. Ms. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Africa and President of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance

At the end of this landmark and historic Conference, I think we will all agree that it was right that this Conference was held and consensus reached on practical steps to be taken to push back the frontiers of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance which are frighteningly on the rise in many parts of the world. I would imagine that we would also agree that it was proper that this Conference should be held in South Africa, a country that has witnessed the most egregious form of institutionalized racism, yet rose to become a living testimony that racism can be defeated with the collective efforts of the international community.

Gathered at this Conference, as Member States, we have at some time or another stood at the precipice. At each moment we stepped back and courageously dug deep into our strength and made a supreme effort to make the Conference the success, that really it is. It was the daring act of faith that sustained us through to the finish, because we must have said to ourselves that for the sake of posterity we must lay a firm foundation for the future of tolerance and harmonious coexistence that will be free from the cancer of racism.

Indeed, we have found our way through the turbulent sea of events. At each point along the way, we had to respond creatively to both anticipated and unanticipated events. Like the blooming and blossoming flower in the spring, we have agreed on a fresh start and a new road map. We have agreed that the depredation of the systems of slavery and colonialism had a degrading and debilitating impact on those who are black, broadly defined.

We also agreed that slavery is a crime against humanity and that an apology is necessary, not for monetary gain, but to restore the dignity and humanity of those who suffered. We also looked at the Middle East. I think everybody in this Conference could not help but be moved by the suffering they saw every day on their television screens. It was those images of suffering Palestinian men, women and children that made us here feel that this matter needed to be discussed.

Consequently, we agreed that a clear and unequivocal apology constitutes a starting point in a long and arduous journey of finding one another. An apology restores the dignity, self-worth and humanity of the black body, broadly defined. We also agreed that other remedial actions would have to be adopted to correct the legacy of slavery and colonialism and all other forms of racism. We agreed to work consciously to uplift women who have been victims of these ills because of their race and gender.

We agreed that the discrimination against and the lack of opportunities for minorities and indigenous people everywhere as a result of their origin, culture, tradition, language, standing in society and their refugee status could only be ignored to our perpetual peril. Accordingly, we have reached consensus that access to education and changing curricula to reflect the interests of every group in every society must be encouraged. We requested the media and other forms of communication medium to help promote positive values of tolerance, understanding, ubuntu-humaness and the richness of our world diversity.

We have agreed at the Conference, that the notion and the process of globalization are entering our jargon and global discourse. We have equally agreed that globalization has impacted on countries differently. It has rendered precarious the economies of countries with the terrible legacy of slavery and colonialism, while benefiting mostly the developed countries.

Wherever it went, especially in the developing South, it has left in its wake dehumanizing absolute poverty, economic marginalization, social exclusion and underdevelopment. Globalization has created the economic refugees who have taken to fleeing the misery of poverty in their countries in search of succour and better living conditions in the rich and prosperous developed countries. Unfortunately, these refugees have been at the receiving end of the worst form of racism and xenophobia.

The Conference, therefore, agreed that this process should be harnessed and directed at the most pressing challenge of our time - "poverty eradication". Globalization has generated enough wealth and resources to do that. We also agreed to deal with the structural conditions that sustain the inequality and inequity of the global economy that in turn encourage underdevelopment and marginalization, which is at the root of racism today.

Through the Programme of Action and the Declaration we unanimously agreed to launch the Global Army against Racism in all countries to work assiduously to roll back and uproot the scourge of racism. From the intergovernmental, to non-governmental and civil society, we agreed in our various forums to work jointly in partnerships to take our work forward. The political Declaration we have just adopted is indeed action orientated and practical. It is now up to Governments and civil society to ensure its implementation.

We have agreed that coming from the centuries that entrenched chauvinism and the pernicious system of segregation, this current century must at its end serve as a fulcrum against racism and free us, once and for all, from all those outdated anti-human and anti-social ideologies whose burden we all carry up to today.

At this juncture, it is in order to express our heartfelt and sincere thanks to the Secretary-General of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance for the excellent service she and her hard-working team provided towards the success of the Conference.

We also wish to thank Madame Diallo and the Preparatory Committee for the groundwork which became the basis of our deliberations. Our gratitude also goes to the Group of 21, which produced proposals that helped us move forward. It is in order to thank countries that hosted regional conferences and allowed Member States to formulate their regional positions that fed into this process, Chile, Iran, France and Senegal.

Ours has been truly an inclusive and broadly consultative process. Our big thank you also goes to the members of the Bureau whose perseverance has seen us conclude our work. The interpreters who made our work easy and more manageable deserve the special mention for their unstinting work. Last but not least, I wish to thank all regional coordinators, especially Brazil, Kenya and Mexico, who led the parallel processes with utmost distinction. I also extend my sincere thanks to the United Nations family for working so tirelessly to make ours a truly successful Conference.

We thank you Member States most dearly for honouring us with your presence in the country you helped liberate through your unfeigned commitment to liquidate the most stubborn system of the apartheid crime against humanity. We apologize for any inconvenience suffered by any delegation during the Conference. I wish to thank also President Mbeki and Deputy President Zuma, as well as my compatriots for their hard work and support.

Shakespeare's Tempest eloquently and elegantly reminds us of our beautiful world when Miranda, the daughter of the deposed Prospero, proclaims at the top of her voice "Oh brave, new world, to have such people". Indeed you are the brave and wondrous people, and have so remarkably risen to the challenge of our time.

In closing, I want to refer to one of our finest poets, Wally Mongale Serote, who had these beautiful words to say in his work Ofay-Watcher Looks Back:

"I want to look at what happened;
That done,
As silent as the roots of plants pierce the soil
I look at what happened
Whether above the houses there is always either smoke or dust
I want to look at what happened
That done
As silent plants show the colour; green
I want to look at what happened,

When houses make me ask: do people live there?
As there is something wrong when I ask - is that man alive?
I want to look at what happened,
That done
As silent as the life of a plant that makes you see it as silent as plants bloom and the eyes tells you: something has happened."

Something historic has indeed happened here today.

Statement by Mrs. Mary Robinson, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and Secretary-General of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance

It has been an exhausting nine days for all of us, but I believe it has been worth it. We have come a very long way. Many questioned whether it would be possible to reach consensus, but we have succeeded and that is no small achievement.

I pay tribute to the delegates who have had to deal with a difficult process but who have not been deterred from the goal of making a breakthrough in Durban.

I do not claim that this Conference has solved the problems of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. The issues have been addressed, not answered. But we have a framework. We have made a start and that is what counts. The true measure of our work will be whether it makes a real difference in the lives of the victims of racism and discrimination.

It is not surprising that the Middle East has played such a prominent part during the preparations for Durban and in the discussions here. Nobody could be unmoved by the human tragedy which continues unabated in the region. After my visit there last November I reported my impression of two peoples who are linked by history and geography, but are currently separated by a wide and growing gap in their perceptions of each other. The violence has resulted in a hardening of positions, with little willingness on either side to understand or accept the narrative of the other. The main conclusion I drew - that the only path to lasting peace and stability is through peaceful negotiation, which calls for courage and responsibility on the part of the leadership of both sides - remains valid and is even more urgent today.

The past has been very present in Durban. The text adopted on the past is historic in that it sets out the issues in plain, unequivocal language for the first time in a document of this kind, agreed to by the international community.

The language on the past will resonate throughout the world and especially among those who still bear the scars. That is a major achievement of which all of us should be very proud.

I welcome the inclusion of language on the international community's commitment to integrate developing countries into the global economy and to resist their marginalization. I

welcome, too, the support expressed for the New African Initiative. The New African Initiative proclaims that African leaders are making a commitment to the African people and the world to work together in rebuilding the continent.

While the main focus of attention has been the intensive negotiations on text, it is far from being the whole picture of Durban.

What I have seen this week is a Conference that has taken place at different levels. For the first time, the world in all its rich variety has gathered to discuss the range of forces that threaten diversity. Durban has given a voice to the excluded and the marginalized.

We heard the voices of young people: Roma children, young Latin American people of African descent, young people who have experienced slavery, young indigenous people. They impressed and touched us with their accounts of what it feels like to be on the receiving end of racism and discrimination. But they gave us hope, too, in their determination to rise above these abuses for their own sake and for the sake of the next generations.

Durban has put the gender dimension of racism on the map. The linkages between gender, racism and poverty were clearly shown and the urgent need to tackle this dimension emphasized. We learned more about the intersection between health, stigma, racism and discrimination in the seminar on HIV/AIDS, and about racism and development in the panel organized by the United Nations Development Programme. Our understanding was deepened by publications such as UNESCO's book of articles and standard-setting instruments entitled United to Combat Racism, the report on International Migration, Racism and Xenophobia jointly prepared by my Office, the International Organization for Migration and the International Labour Office and by the gathering of academic experts organized by the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development on "Racism and public policy".

At the Voices Forum there was proof of the global nature of racism as we listened to moving stories of discrimination from every part of the world.

The main message I would like to leave you with is that Durban must be a beginning and not an end. There must be follow-up. The documents we have agreed here will be meaningless unless Governments act on them. Civil society must work as allies of Governments in this task and must ensure that the commitments entered into here are honoured.

I take heart from the new alliances I saw taking shape in Durban: the role that parliamentarians can play was highlighted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union; the national human rights commissions sent us a powerful expression of their determination to play their part; the treaty bodies and the special mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights played an active part; the vital role of the media and the private sector in combating racism was emphasized. And I believe that the non-governmental organizations will go away with a renewed resolve to integrate the Durban agenda into their activities. I am relying on civil society to take up the torch from this Conference and carry it forward.

I welcome the recommendations of this Conference in regard to follow-up by my Office and me and look forward to the cooperation and support of Governments in implementing this.

We now have a series of concrete recommendations - for national plans and programmes, for better treatment of victims, for tougher anti-discrimination legislation and administrative measures, for universal ratification and implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and other relevant international treaties, for strengthening education (a most important area), for improving the remedies and recourses available to victims, and many more. These are where our attention should now be concentrated. This is the work we have to do.

There are many people who deserve thanks and I would like to mention some of them. I wish, first of all, to express my appreciation to the Government and the people of South Africa for the arrangements which were made for us in Durban. The efficiency and good humour of those we worked with over the past fortnight were such as to make our work much easier and our stay in Durban memorable.

I thank President Mbeki for his solidarity with us during a very difficult week for him. Our thoughts are with him today.

I would like to say a special word of thanks to you personally for being such an excellent chair and to your colleagues who worked so unstintingly.

Among the delegations it would be invidious to single out individuals but I feel that I must put on record my appreciation to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Belgium, Louis Michel, who went that extra mile for the Conference.

Tributes are rightly being paid to the regional coordinators, the chairs of the two working groups and the facilitators on difficult issues and I am happy to join in those.

Without their tireless contributions, this outcome would not have been possible. I wish to pay tribute also to the many delegates who took on the task of sorting out individual issues as they arose. This, too, was vital work. Many delegates made substantive inputs to the debate which had a less visible, but no less important role in ensuring this successful outcome.

Finally, I pay tribute to all who supported the smooth running of the Conference, the interpreters, translators, press officers and editors and all the support staff here at the International Conference Centre.

It has been, as I said, exhausting and I am sure that everyone will benefit from a break. But not for too long! There is plenty of work ahead of us.

ANNEX V

PARALLEL AND ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES

1. A wide variety of parallel and associated activities took place at Durban on the occasion of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, in consultation with the Government of South Africa and the Secretary-General of the Conference.[a]

2. The NGO Forum was held at the Kingsmead Cricket Stadium from 28 August to 1 September 2001. The Forum was the conclusion of a process that began at the Strasbourg preparatory conference in October 2000 and was attended by 8,000 individuals representing close to 3,000 NGOs from all continents. For five days, NGOs discussed issues of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, built networks and alliances and shared their own experiences. Twenty-five thematic commissions were created and the results of these were submitted to the Drafting Committee for the NGO Declaration and Plan of Action. Workshops, exhibitions and plenaries chaired by experts were just some of the parallel activities that took place. The opening ceremony was attended by the President of South Africa, Mr Thabo Mbeki and the Secretary-General of the World Conference, Mrs. Mary Robinson. The United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, addressed the Forum on 30 September 2001. The work of the NGO Forum resulted in the adoption of a Declaration and Plan of Action. Both the Declaration and Plan of Action were presented at the plenary of the World Conference on 4 September 2001.

3. The International Youth Summit, held in Durban on 26 and 27 August 2001, brought together more than 700 young people from all regions of the world and from a diversity of cultural, religious and political backgrounds. They exchanged experiences and opinions on a wide variety of topics relating to racism, including education, employment, justice, poverty and the economy including globalization, the media, new information technologies including the Internet, minority rights, multiple forms of discrimination, human rights and citizenship, colonialism and foreign occupation, slavery and the slave trade including compensation. This work continued throughout the NGO Forum and concluded with the adoption of the International Youth Summit Declaration and Plan of Action. These documents were received by Mrs. Mary Robinson, High Commissioner for Human Rights, and Mrs. Carol Bellamy, Executive Director of UNICEF on 2 September 2001. The Youth Summit Declaration and Plan of Action were submitted to the Plenary on 5 September 2001.

4. During the Conference, 42 separate parallel events took place at the Durban Exhibition Centre at the Conference site. Twenty-six of those events were either organized or co-organized by United Nations bodies, agencies and programmes. The Secretary-General of the World Conference, Mrs. Mary Robinson, participated in almost half of all parallel activities. Almost all of the events were open to the participation of everyone at the Conference, including delegates, the media and representatives of NGOs.

5. The following 22 parallel events were organized by United Nations bodies, agencies and programmes: daily briefing for NGOs (WCAR NGO Liaison Unit); panel, "Double jeopardy: the impact of racism and armed conflict on children" (Office of the Special Representative of the

Secretary-General for children and armed conflict); high-level panel, "Discrimination is everybody's business" (OHCHR); panel, "The impact of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance on sustainable development" (UNDP); round table, "Indigenous media dialogue" (OHCHR); briefing, "Working with the United Nations" (Department of Economic and Social Affairs); symposium, "Cooperation for the better protection of the rights of minorities" (OHCHR); panel, "Addressing racism through peace education and conflict resolution - lessons from experience" (UNICEF); panel, "The impact of multiple forms of discrimination on women" (Division for the Advancement of Women); workshop, "The intersectionality of gender and race discrimination" (OHCHR); conference, "Racism and public policy" (United Nations Research Institute for Social Development); panel, "The new aspects of racism in the age of globalization and the gene revolution" (UNESCO); round table, "Indigenous peoples and crisis: approaches and strategies for building peace" (UNDP); panel, "Global alliance against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance" (OHCHR); panel, "The child's right to education" (UNICEF and OHCHR); panel, "Diversity is everybody's business - Implementing equality and diversity policies: Private sector action" (ILO and OHCHR); panel, "The slave route: slavery and racism" (UNESCO); panel, "Voices of indigenous women" (OHCHR); round table, "Racism and Indigenous Peoples" (OHCHR); panel, "Exploring the link: HIV/AIDS, stigma, discrimination and racism" (UNAIDS and OHCHR); panel, "Gender, race and ethnicity: women at the intersection of peace, justice and human rights" (UNIFEM); and panel, "Race and gender within the context of CEDAW" (UNIFEM).

6. The following four events were co-organized by the United Nations and other partners: symposium, "National human rights institutions and conflict prevention" (UNDP and the South African Human Rights Commission); multi-stakeholder workshop, "Discrimination is everybody's business" (Volvo Car Corporation and the United Nations Global Compact office); round table, "Racism and the impact and role of media" (UNESCO, OHCHR, the International Council on Human Rights Policy and the International Federation of Journalists); and panel "Discrimination in reproductive health and reproductive rights" (UNFPA and the Government of South Africa).

7. The following 16 events were organized by governmental, non-governmental and other institutions and organizations: panel, "An exploration of the convergences between racism and religious belief, with particular emphasis on Islamophobia" (Al-Khoei Foundation); forum, "Voices of victims" (International Human Rights Law Group and the South African Human Rights Commission); parliamentary meeting, "Action of Parliaments and their members in the fight against racism, racial discrimination and related intolerance" (Inter-Parliamentary Union and the South African Parliament); panel, "Denied a future? Right to education of Roma, Gypsy and Traveller children" (Save the Children Federation); colloquium, "The French law of 21 May 2001 recognizing slavery and the slave trade as crimes against humanity" (Government of France); colloquium, "The death penalty and restorative justice: Church challenges to institutional racism" (World Alliance of Reformed Churches and the Restorative Justice Center for Capital Cases); colloquium, "New Africa Initiative: an African response to the legacy of racism" (South African Human Rights Commission); panel, "Racism and the West: the theory of inferiority" (COBASE); colloquium, "Strategies to combat racism: comparable case studies" (South African Human Rights Commission); panel, "African women's voices" (African Committee on Peace and Development, the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of

Women in Africa and Femmes Africa Solidarité); strategy session (NGO International Steering Committee); strategy meeting (The African and African Descendants Caucus); colloquium, "Racism and the administration of justice" (South African Human Rights Commission); panel, "Connecting the disconnected - WCAR - the vision forward" (Conference of NGOs); panel, "Roma education for identity and self-esteem building" (Aven Amentza); meeting, "Healing the human community: a celebration of hope for WCAR and beyond" (Spiritual and Religious NGO Caucus).

8. Some of the parallel activities were major meetings that took place over an entire day or more. The Inter-Parliamentary Union and the South African Parliament organized on 2 September a parliamentary meeting of hundreds of parliamentarians from around the world to discuss "Action of Parliaments and their members in the fight against racism, racial discrimination and related intolerance". The meeting adopted a declaration which, among other things, underlined the importance of adhering to and implementing the relevant international treaties; and recognized the personal responsibility of members of parliament to use their influence on public opinion to promote the values of diversity and tolerance. Also among the parallel activities was a three-day conference organized by the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), which brought together social scientists, historians and legal scholars from various regions to present papers and lead discussions on "Racism and public policy".

9. A total of 1,100 journalists were accredited and covered the proceedings of the World Conference. Among them were many journalists invited on a special OHCHR fellowship from the different regions of the world. Live coverage of the Conference was televised by the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC), BBC and CNN. In addition to that coverage, the Talent Consortium from Johannesburg provided a series of television and radio programmes related to the World Conference that were broadcast to 13 countries in eastern and southern Africa before, during and after the World Conference. The Consortium also produced a 30-minute video that was screened during the Conference.

10. Two independent daily newspapers on the Conference were produced in Durban and distributed free of charge to all Conference participants. With support from OHCHR, the Earth Times Foundation published the Conference News Daily with 15,000 copies, and a Durban daily, the Mercury, carried a special supplement, titled "Human rights features", which was published by the Human Rights Documentation Center and the South Asia Human Rights Documentation Centre. Both of the Conference dailies offered up-to-date reports on activities in the plenary and Main Committee meetings and the parallel events, as well as analyses of the issues under negotiation, interviews with participants and background articles on a variety of topics related to the Conference. During the Conference, the Earth Times Web site recorded 50,000 persons accessing the Conference News Daily from around the world.

Note

[a] It should be noted that the Conference, per se, took no formal note of these activities.